(c) if so, whether this act is in keeping with the well enunciated approach of the Government through the common minimum programme about media autonomy and the right to information; and

(d) if not, whether responsibilities will be fixed for this mistake?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Quantum of foreign loan on Average Indian

1584. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita foreign loan an Indian owes as on date;

(b) whether Government propose to reduce it substantially;

(c) if so, what steps are proposed in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The per capita foreign debt of the Government works out at Rs. 1601 during 1995-96.

(b) and (c) Government has been following a prudent debt management strategy aimed at reducing the debt service ratio to comfortable levels. This includes measures to promote the growth of exports and other current receipts, reduce the growth of total debt and to encourage non-debt creating inflows such as foreign investment.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up a Bench of Keraia High Court in Thiruvananthapuram

1585. SHRI THENNALA BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any proposal from the State Government to start a Bench of Kerala High Court in Thiruvananthapuram; and

(b) if so, what action is taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) No complete proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, for establishing a bench of the High Court at Thiruvananthapuram. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

Freezing of Properties under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Act

1586. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 provides for tracing, freezing and forfeiture of property derived from illicit drug traffic;

(b) if so, whether properties were traced, frozen and forfeited under the Act during the last three years, with year-wise and State-wise detail thereof; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to stop money laundering related to narcotics trafficking in the country, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANFY AFFAIRS: (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Madam.